



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** April 6, 2015

Dear Interested Party,

Thank you for your interest and participation in the development of Rush Skeleton Weed Project. The USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rush Skeleton Weed Project which is available electronically for your review at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/plumas/landmanagement/projects> and scroll to Rush Skeleton Weed Project. If you would like a hard copy of the document, please contact Michael Friend, Project Leader, via one of the methods listed below.

The project area is located northwest of the communities of Blairsden and Graeagle, along forest road 23N37 within the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest, Plumas County; the legal description is T 22 N, R11 E, Section 1, and T22 N, R12E, Section 6: Mount Diablo Meridian.

The Rush Skeleton Weed Project proposed to control the noxious weed known as rush skeleton weed in the project area and prevent new populations of rush skeleton weed. Control would be defined as: no new populations detected in or within 1 mile of the project area and a reduction in numbers of individual rush skeleton weed plants in the original infestation. Treatment would include use of herbicides and manual methods.

#### **How to Comment and Timeframe:**

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. **Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection (CFR 218.5(a)).** Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal for 30 days following publication of the opportunity to comment legal notice in the Portola Reporter, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25).

Written comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official, Deb Bumpus, District Ranger, c/o Michael Friend, Project Leader, Beckwourth Ranger District, PO Box 7, Blairsden, CA, 96103. Comments may be (1) mailed; (2) hand delivered between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, weekdays to 23 Mohawk Road, Blairsden, CA 96103; (3) faxed to (530) 836-0493; or (4) electronically mailed to [comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us). Electronic comments, in common (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) formats, may be submitted to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us) with Subject: Rush Skeleton Weed Project.

In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual, objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

#### **Objection Process Information:**



A new rule (36 CFR 218), effective on March 27, 2013, replaces the previous appeal rules (36 CFR 215) and expands the use of the pre-decisional objection process. Overall, the new rule provides the public an opportunity to comment and/or object before a decision is made. Following this 30-day comment period, a 45-day objection period will be initiated with an objection legal notice published in the *Portola Reporter* and providing the final EA and draft DN/FONSI for review. Names and addresses of those who comment and/or file objections will become part of the public record. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.

Those filing an objection must meet the legal requirements for filing an objection 36 CFR 218.8:

- (a) Objections must be filed with the reviewing officer in writing.
- (b) Incorporation of documents by reference is not allowed, except for the following list of items that may be referenced by including date, page, and section of the cited document, along with a description of its content and applicability to the objection. All other documents must be included with the objection.
- (c) Issues raised in objections **must be based on previously submitted specific written comments** regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objection, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement of objection issues.

I want to thank you for your involvement in this project. I also want to emphasize that the objection process discussed above does not in any way diminish my responsibilities to address your comments and concerns.

If you have questions or concerns with this project please contact Michael Friend, Project Leader, at (530) 836-2575 or [mjfriend@fs.fed.us](mailto:mjfriend@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deb Bumpus" followed by a flourish and the word "For".

DEB BUMPUS  
District Ranger

